

The Community Conversations are meant to be discussions among Morgan Hill residents, trying to find common ground on this basic question:

**What kind of city do we want and what tradeoffs are we willing to accept to get it?**

*Are we willing to live with reduced services?*

*Would we pay a little more to keep things the way they are?*

*Are we willing to dig a little deeper to improve our current level of service?*

Conversation participants go through a 2.5 hour process discussing the tradeoffs involved with balancing the City's budget. The session opens with a short video, introducing the City's financial crunch. Participants then go through two exercises in which groups of 6-8 people talk about different approaches to City services. They discuss the scope of City services, and their values in determining the right level of services for Morgan Hill. They then discuss whether they think service cuts or revenue increases (or a combination) are the best way to get to the level of services they support.

During the process, participants are encouraged to aim for respectful dialogue, attempting to find common ground with other participants. The conversations are not meant to be debates, with winners and losers. All participants have important contributions in the dialogue process, and all viewpoints are needed.

Though the groups of 6-8 people will report on their discussion to the facilitator, there is also an opportunity for individuals to state their personal preferences on the tradeoffs involved. All of this information will be combined and reported back to the community and City Council at Council meetings, through a special newsletter mailed to all residents, and on the City website.

Conversations may be hosted by the City or any group that is willing to serve as a host. Service clubs, neighborhood and school associations, religious and political organizations, and any other kind of group may host a conversation. If interested in hosting, a group representative should contact the City at [CityTalk@morganhill.ca.gov](mailto:CityTalk@morganhill.ca.gov), or by calling 779-7271.

The written materials used in the exercises are available on the City website.